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CASA PACIFICA CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
A California Non-profit 501(C) (3)

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For: Assignment Editor

Federal Head of Foster Care Bryan Samuels to Visit Casa Pacifica

Camarillo, CA. January 31, 2011 – Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) will visit Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families on Tuesday, February 15th as part of a California trip in which he will also Keynote at the California Alliance for Children and Families annual conference being held in Napa, California. During his visit to Casa Pacifica Mr. Samuels will meet with County officials from Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties to discuss the direction of child welfare policies and foster care from the federal perspective. Casa Pacifica's Youth Advocates, each a former foster youth, will also have opportunity to meet with Mr. Samuels to talk about their experiences in foster care as well as their first-hand impressions of what policies are working and what areas need to be improved for the transitioning and emancipated youth with whom they interact every day.

Mr. Samuels has spent his career formulating service delivery innovations and streamlining operations in large government organizations on behalf of children, youth, and families. His commitment to public service is largely motivated by his own success in overcoming great personal hardship during his eleven and a half years of growing up in a residential school for disadvantaged children. This experience shaped his commitment to serve children who live in foster care, and reinforced his belief that dedicated people and well-designed programs can make a dramatic impact on the lives of at-risk youth.

During his career, Mr. Samuels served as the Chief of Staff for Chicago Public Schools where he played a leadership role in managing the day-to-day operations of the third largest school system in the nation. Prior to that role, he served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the country's third largest child welfare agency, where he implemented comprehensive assessments of all children entering care, redesigned transitional and independent living programs to better prepare youth for emancipation, created a child location unit to track all runaway youth, and introduced evidenced-based programs to address the impact of trauma and exposure to violence on children in state care.

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Casa Pacifica is a crisis-care and residential treatment facility for abused, neglected, or at-risk children in the tri-Counties. The agency is the largest provider of children's mental health services in both Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and administers a number of community-based programs which are designed to strengthen families and keep children in their own homes, schools, and communities.

For more information about Casa Pacifica view www.casapacifica.org or contact the Development Department at (805) 445-7800.